

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## NEW STIMULUS MATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they say we have to spend more money that we don't have to stimulate more spending by the American people. This is supposed to save us all from economic chaos. I think I'm missing something here. How does borrowing money just to spend it help out the citizens who not only have to come up with the money in the first place but also have to pay the interest on the government's shopping spree?

This stimulus package, which filters money to special interest groups, will cost \$825 billion. But if we add up last year's so-called stimulus package that didn't work, and all the bailouts to the special interest groups, like the big bank robber barons, the Congressional Budget Office says we will have to borrow all the money to pay for it. That means a total of an additional \$2 trillion in deficit.

So, Mr. Speaker, how does borrowing money just to spend \$825 billion make sense? Why don't we just not spend the money in the first place. Let all Americans have an across-the-board tax cut, those Americans that do pay taxes, and let them decide how to spend their money. Cut the corporate income tax, then businesses can stimulate the economy by hiring more workers.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not going to happen because the mindset in the United States now is that the government is smarter than the people. So government saves us all from ourselves.

Thomas Jefferson knew better. He said a long time ago, "I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the money and labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Oh, I wish we'd have listened to Thomas Jefferson. If this prediction is true, then there are going to be a lot more unhappy Americans because wise ole Uncle Sam is planning to spend our money in the name of stimulating the economy.

Here are a few examples in the \$825 billion stimulus package. I like this one. The National Mall is going to get

some new grass that will cost \$200 million. That is about \$1.5 million per acre. Mr. Speaker, what kind of grass is that? Gold-plated AstroTurf? I'm sure that spending this money will help the economy way down there in Dime Box, Texas.

Here's another one: \$726 million for after-school snack programs for school children. I'm sure our school kids need more snacks at taxpayer expense, but does anyone really think that will help the economy? Probably not.

What is \$825 billion anyway? Well, since Uncle Sam doesn't have the money left in his bank, that means every man, woman, child, and illegal in the United States will have to eventually come up with \$2,700 apiece to pay for Uncle Sam's spending appetite.

All this stimulus package does is put us more in debt to China, which weakens our dollar and our national security. The government needs to put the money back where it belongs, in the hands of the people who earned it. Let Americans decide how to spend their money. After all, it doesn't belong to Uncle Sam.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## FOCUS ON EDUCATION SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight, as we sit here in this Chamber, all across America there are school superintendents, there are boards of education, there are boards of finance that are grappling with the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression. And as we know from press reports all over the country, hundreds of thousands of school teachers have been given layoff notices. Forty-four States are now in deficit; \$95 billion for 2009 fiscal year, \$145 billion for the 2010 fiscal year, as all these local officials, who have the responsibility of making sure that we have school programs that our children can have an opportunity to thrive and grow, are bracing themselves for Governors who inevitably are going to be reducing State support for education.

It is in that context, Mr. Speaker, that as we proceed as a Congress to take up the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on this Wednesday, that I think it's important to focus for a minute on the education spending which is included in this legislation.

Under this measure, under this recovery act that President Obama and the congressional leadership have voted on last week, over \$145 billion will flow

out directly to school districts across this country. For example, there will be \$13 billion to pay for Title I, a Federally-mandated program which has been underfunded as part of the disgraceful unwillingness of the Federal Government to pay for the No Child Left Behind Act over the last 6 years. And \$13 billion of additional funds will go out to pay for special education. Again, a disgraceful nonfunding by the Federal Government since 1975 when Gerald Ford signed the Special Education Act into law, mandating that all these local officials, again, who are trapped tonight, have to come up with the resources to pay for the special education needs of children all across the country.

And \$14 billion to pay for school construction. Again, directly to local communities so that they will have the funds to modernize and retrofit schools all across the country and immediately putting to work the construction trades, which is the hardest hit sector in the American economy.

A \$79 billion economic stabilization fund, which will flow directly into States through your education cost sharing formulas all across America to make up for the inevitable shortfall which Governors and State legislators are going to be forced to cut back on as they deal with, again, this historic economic downturn.

President Obama understands that we must act with this American Recovery and Reinvestment Act with funding for education; number one, to make sure that hundreds of thousands of teachers are not going to be laid off, along with staff, who, again, we entrust with making sure are children are going to be educated every single day across this country.

He also understands long term that the failure to step in and avoid larger class sizes, which will result in teacher layoffs, is going to ensure that our economy will grow not just in the short term, not just as we get through this economic crisis, but also to make sure that long term that America's competitiveness will be maintained.

We know what is happening across the world today. That there are countries which are beating us in science, in engineering, in math. And if we allow as a Congress to step back and leave local communities on their own, with declining property tax revenues and declining State support for public education across this country, we will damage not only this country in the short term, but we will damage it in terms of our long-term ability to compete and thrive and grow as a Nation.

This past Saturday, I sat down with school superintendents all across the Second Congressional District of eastern Connecticut to talk about the dilemma with which these school superintendents and boards of education find themselves in. Again, all of them are in the process of coming up with contingency plans to lay off staff and teachers across their district.